

REMARKS

Claims 20 to 25, 31 and 32 are pending in the application. Claims 31 and 32 have been added.

New claim 31 is independent. Support for claim 31 may be found, at least, at page 8, line 1 to page 9, line 9 of the specification as originally filed.

Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement with respect to an "adjustable width" slot. Claim 24 no longer recites "adjustable width" and therefore this rejection is moot. Claim 24 now recites "said knife blade is adjustable to vary the thickness of said sliced foodstuffs". Support for this amendment may be found at least at page 11, lines 10-11.

Claims 20-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, for lack of clarity as to the location of the orifice with respect to the chute due to the phrase "an orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc" and lack of clarity as to how the orifice can have a shape if it is not part of the chute. The claims no longer recite the noted phrase, and therefore this rejection is moot. Furthermore, claim 31 recites "an orifice at an end of a chute," which clearly indicates the location of the orifice, and which is consistent with the orifice having a shape.

Claims 20-21 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,706,556 to Wallace et al., hereinafter "Wallace". Applicant respectfully submits that the present amendments have rendered this rejection moot, as claims 20-21 and 25 now ultimately depend from new claim 31. Claim 31, recites, in part, "an automatic controller for correlating the rate of production of sliced foodstuffs with temperature," that is neither disclosed nor suggested by Wallace. For at least this reason, therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 20-21 and 25 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claims 22 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,280,723, to Hughes et al., hereinafter "Hughes". This rejection is also moot, as claims 22 and 24 now ultimately

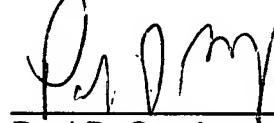
depend from claim 31. Hughes fails to cure the deficiency of Wallace to disclose or suggest the slicer of claim 31, and is not relied on by the Office Action to do so. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 22 and 24 are patentable over Wallace in view of Hughes, and requests that the rejection of these claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wallace in view of German Patent Publication No. DE 195 48 209 C1 to Shin, hereinafter "Shin." This rejection is also moot, as claim 23 now ultimately depends from claim 31. Shin fails to cure the deficiency of Wallace to disclose or suggest the slicer of claim 31, and is not relied on by the Office Action to do so. Therefore, for at least the reasons provided above, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 23 is patentable over Wallace in view of Shin, and requests that the rejection of this claim be reconsidered and withdrawn.

An indication of the allowability of all pending claims by issuance of a Notice of Allowability is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/17/07



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